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REPORT
OF
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES
IN SOUTH CAROLINA

March 26, 1963

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

To the Honorable Presiding Officers and Members of the General Assembly:

I

INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTION

The Committee continued its practice of past years of maintaining close liaison with law enforcement agencies, especially of South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, with respect to any reports of communist activities or other subversive matters. All communications received by the Committee were in turn transmitted to proper law enforcement agencies for investigation and/or follow up action were warranted. Several items were discussed with the Chief of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and based on mutual agreement there was no instance in which the use of the subpoena powers of the Committee, or a public hearing, would have served a worthwhile purpose.

II

EDUCATIONAL MISSION

This Committee was requested by Bill dated May 10, 1961 (H. 1781) (Act 676, 1962) to "develop and execute an educational program to inform the people of the State of South Carolina of the threat of communism to the National security."

At the outset this Committee recognized serious limitations of both propriety and fact in attempting to meet the obligations created by this legislative mandate: (1) The propriety of any government agency engaging in or directing an educational program involving political philosophies or ideologies—charges of propaganda, "brainwashing" and the like can easily be made and become difficult to refute; (2) The fact that none of the Committee members were experts on the subject of communism or in the field of education.

In an attempt to avoid this danger and overcome these limitations, the Committee last year attempted to develop an educational program in conjunction with South Carolina Alert, Inc., a non-profit corporation whose members included many leading educators as well as Presidents of all of the state supported colleges. The wisdom of this cooperative action was questioned by the House of Representatives

as evidenced by the passage of a Resolution dated the eighth day of March, 1962, requesting that no further funds of the Committee be used for the cooperative program.

The Committee thereupon severed its formal relations with South Carolina Alert, Inc. and considered that it must take responsibility for insuring the development of an educational program.

III

THE COMMITTEE'S WORK 1962-1963

The Committee's approach has been conditioned upon two basic premises:

(1) That the problem of awakening our citizens to the grave threat posed by world communism is one requiring primarily education, not indoctrination or legislation;

(2) That the Committee's role should be limited, if possible, to that of a catalytic agent, encouraging, coordinating, and assisting the efforts of educators to insure that a factual, reasonably full presentation is made in the public schools and to the public generally of the two contrasting systems—Democracy and Communism.

Members of the Committee to Investigate Communist Activities in South Carolina in the past year held numerous meetings and consulted with some of the nation's outstanding authorities familiar with the Communist threat to the United States and to our institutions. It became clear to the Committee from the outset that the major problem in South Carolina as throughout the nation is the appalling degree of ignorance about communism and its contrasts with free and open democratic societies. The communist threat is real in South Carolina only to the extent to which our people remain ignorant of communism and its methods and take for granted, without understanding and appreciation, our American heritage of freedom.

The Committee to Investigate Communist Activities in South Carolina has been especially concerned that the State of South Carolina develop a responsible and high quality program of instruction on the grave communist threat. To that end we have investigated various programs of other states, consulted with educational authorities and experts on communism, and surveyed various publications. The Committee has previewed films and talked with leaders in the field of educational television.

The Committee was fortunate in that Dr. Richard L. Walker, head of the Department of International Studies at the University of South Carolina, was working closely with the Standing Committee on Education Against Communism of the American Bar Association. Through the liaison initially provided by Dr. Walker, it was recognized that the goals and aims of the American Bar Association and this Committee were essentially the same and that an excellent possibility of cooperative action existed. From the American Bar Association's publication "Summary of Activities, 1962," we quote:

"One of the Association's most far-reaching and effective public service undertakings in recent years, to encourage and support educational authorities in teaching the facts about communism through the nation's high schools and colleges, moved forward during the year into a more advanced stage.

"When the Association's House of Delegates, in February of 1961, first called for inclusion in schools, curricula of regular units of instruction in the contrasts between the communist system and freedom under law, the question then being debated was *whether* there should be such courses. Now, only 18 months later, the question is no longer *whether* but *how* to teach them. Starting this fall, many cities and states have established such courses . . .

"In the rapidly changed climate of public opinion it became clear that the long-range need was for adequately trained teachers and suitable teaching materials. Educational organizations, colleges and universities began moving to meet these needs. The Association took steps to consolidate its own efforts to support the immediate goal of teacher training, and the long-range goals of broad public education.

"To these ends, a new American Bar Association Standing Committee on Education Against Communism was established by House of Delegates action. It consolidates the former Standing Committee on Communist Tactics, Strategy and Objectives, and the former special committee which developed the current school curriculum program. The new combined committee outlined a two-pronged course of action:

"(1) To carry forward the educational seminars for members of the bar and public, initiated the previous year by the former Communist Tactics committee, with such seminars to be conducted principally in connection with regular state bar annual meetings.

"(2) To continue cooperative efforts with school officials and educational institutions, particularly to assist in arranging institutes for teachers to strengthen their qualifications for teaching in this field . . .

"Although the Association may justly derive some satisfaction from the progress to date, the magnitude of the task ahead is more than sufficient to dissipate any complacency. International communism never has deviated from its ultimate goal of world domination. This grave threat to our country and to freedom will, at best, be with us for decades. As Dr. Sidney Hook has said, if the free world is to survive, our people 'must acquire a more sophisticated knowledge of communism.' This can only be accomplished by sound education. The primary responsibility in this field is, of course, upon the educational authorities at all levels. But the encouragement and affirmative support of responsible organizations such as this Association (with its special duty to defend the rule of law) will materially assist in establishing and maintaining the quality of education in depth which is so necessary to a broader understanding of the communist challenge to our country and to freedom everywhere."

As a result of preliminary discussions with the American Bar Association's Committee, a representative of this Committee met with the American Bar Association group at its mid-winter meeting in January, 1963, at New Orleans. The tentative plans and recommendations of this Committee were discussed with the American Bar Association group with the result that the American Bar Association Committee agreed to assist in the preparation of a teacher-training film as is recommended herein.

The deliberations of the Committee have led to certain obvious conclusions about any program which it might support:

1. The program must be of sufficiently high quality as to reflect credit upon the State of South Carolina and its institutions and people.
2. A program for education about Communism and its contrast with Liberty under Law must be designed to reach as wide an audience as possible throughout the State.
3. Under no circumstances must a program developed by the Committee and sponsored by the Legislature of the State of South Carolina be open to criticism in terms of quality or approach such that its continuance will be jeopardized.

4. A program for the education about the Communist threat will of necessity be a long-range one.

5. This is the type of education and activity in which economy in the effort to educate would be the poorest type of economy.

As a result of its deliberations, the Committee to Investigate Communist Activities has concluded and recommends that the State of South Carolina embark upon a five-fold program for education about Democracy and Communism. This program, in the view of the Committee, takes best advantage of the state's leadership in the field of educational television, the presence of nationally recognized experts at the University of South Carolina, and an educational system which has been significantly improved in recent years. The following are the five activities which the Committee feels should be initiated immediately in South Carolina:

1. The State Department of Education should be urged to prepare at the earliest possible moment, units of instruction on Democracy and Communism for appropriate courses at the junior and senior high school level, together with adequate teacher guidance materials. There must be no delay in getting quality instructional materials into our schools.

2. The South Carolina Educational TV network should make arrangements for the showing in high schools throughout the State on a regular basis the television series "Communism—Myth versus Reality" developed by the Research Institute on Communist Strategy and Propaganda at the University of Southern California.

3. As a part of an adult education program, the television series and other suitable instructional materials should be shown on the Educational TV network in the evenings or its showing should be encouraged as a part of a statewide program on commercial television stations.

4. As a part of in-service training for social studies teachers throughout the state, the Institute of International Studies of the University of South Carolina in cooperation with leading and reputable groups of scholars and experts in the United States should be authorized to develop an educational television series for teachers to help them better handle materials developed by the State Department of Education and discussion stemming from the showing of the "Communism—Myth versus Reality" series. The educational TV series for teachers should, if possible, utilize services of nationally known experts and be suitable for use elsewhere in the nation. The

American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Education Against Communism has agreed to pay the costs and make the necessary arrangements to secure the outstanding national figures whose participation it is believed will insure the success of this part of our program.

Teachers participating in the in-service training by television should be supported for regular district meetings and discussion groups where reading materials and subject matter covered in the television programs are brought together. Such meetings, probably on Saturday mornings once a month, would be tied in with the series of approximately twenty television programs to begin in the fall of 1963.

5. As a part of a regular program of teacher preparation in a subject which is both complex and difficult, the Institute of International Studies of the University of South Carolina should be supported for the continuation of the summer seminars for secondary school teachers such as that held during the summer session of 1962.

For the development of the above program the Committee proposes to seek the support and advice of groups which have already shown a great interest in developing materials and organizing activity such as the American Bar Association, the American Legion, the National Education Association and the various Alert groups.

The Committee must have the following appropriation for the 1963-64 fiscal year, in order to carry out the recommendations made herein and to discharge properly the Committee's responsibilities as assigned by the General Assembly:

1. Development of ETV teacher-training series SC ETV	
Production: Video-tape—Personnel and Equipment	\$ 43,000.00
2. Fellowships for teachers—University of South Carolina Institute of International Studies	40,000.00
3. Southern California Programs for ETV	5,000.00
4. Committee expenses, including other possible TV programs	10,000.00
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	\$ 98,000.00

CONCLUSION

It is felt that South Carolina has an opportunity to assert leadership in a field of immense importance to the future of our country. For that reason, we believe that the above recommendations should receive thoughtful consideration and approval of the General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ JOHN C. WEST, *Chairman,*

/s/ FRANCIS C. JONES,

/s/ REMBERT C. DENNIS,

/s/ E. CROSBY LEWIS, *Vice-Chairman,*

/s/ DAN F. LANEY, JR., *Secretary,*

/s/ H. NORMAN WEST.

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